

Subject: Southwest Gulf Railroad Company (SGR)
Construction and operation Exemption, Medina County, Texas

#E1-128
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The environmental issues associated with SGR's proposal to build and operate a new,
Seven-mile rail line in Medina County, Texas.

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This proposed rail line would be located and run through my front yard. It will divide my property in half. It will divide and destroy my twenty year old Pecan Orchards and their underground irrigation systems. The railroad will dissect my irrigated hay fields and cattle grazing pastures. The tanks (water ponds) will be on one side of the tracks and the grass will be on the other. The rail line will be within 500 yards of my Edwards Well and will cause damage to the 1,500 feet of well casing and the vibrations can also cause sediments and pump malfunction.

All of these items mentioned would have a significant impact on the value of my property and, more importantly, it will be a major impact on my livelihood. This railroad will destroy my ranch and I will not be able to support my family.

This economic loss is sad, but what I find the saddest is the horrible cruel impact this rail line will have on the historic and cultural antiques of Quihi. The destruction of the homes and artifact in the immediate area is going to be felt for many years to come.

I own an Alsatian Sunday House. It was built in 1850 and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the Department of the Interior. It has been named a State of Texas Historical Landmark and it has been recognized by the San Antonio Conservation Society as an important historical building. This home has stood for over 150 years and it is tragic that anyone would think that a rail line is more important, and therefore justifies the destruction of this building.

The construction methods of 150 years ago were to pile up rocks about two to three feet thick and around eight feet high then smear some mortar on the outside of the rocks. A wooden roof structure, fastened together with wooden nails, was then balanced on top of the rocks. If you think a building of this type could withstand the vibrations of a high-powered diesel railroad engine you would be wrong.

June 12, 2003

My historic home, along with several dozen others, have stood in Quihi for over 150 years. The installation of a railroad will destroy whatever is left of that history.

Located on my property is a very old stone wall, I have been told it was put there by the Indians, it appears to be much older than my house. The proposed rail line will plow right through the stone wall. On the property adjacent to me hundreds of Indian artifacts have been dug up in the past few years, many of which have been dated to be 5,000 to 10,000 years old. Have any studies ever been made to determine the quality of these sites?

The potential environmental impacts of SGR's proposal are vast. The economic and more importantly the historic and cultural losses to Quihi are enormous. The loss and degradation in this area is a shame and should not be allowed to happen. There will be no future for the people of Quihi and their descendents if there is no past.

Respectfully submitted by:

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